

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-15 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /155 W

----- 088857

R 121602Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1409

INFO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AXMBASSY PRETORIA 342

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NI, PO

SUBJECT: ANOMALIES IN FMG POLICY RE SOUTHERN AFRICA

REF: LAGOS 8227

BEGIN SUMMARY: THREE RECENT TIMES ARTICLES HAVE CALLED  
ATTENTION TO ANOMALIES IN FMG POLICY RE SOUTHERN AFRICA,  
BUT NO SIGN OF IMMINENT FMG ACTION TO CLOSE LOOPHOLES.  
END SUMMARY

1. PRESS QUERY REPORTED REFTTEL CONCERNING ONWARD TRANSIT  
OF AIRCRAFT FROM NIGERIA TO SOUTH AFRICA IS THIRD SUCH  
INCIDENT IN RECENT WEEKS ALLUDING TO ANOMALIES IN FMG  
POLICY VIS-A-VIS MINORITY-RULED AREAS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA,  
ALL OF WHICH HAVE INVOLVED DAILY TIMES.

2. FIRST CASE WAS TIMES ALLEGATION SEPTEMBER 20 THAT  
POLISH CARGO SHIP THEN IN LAGOS HARBOR HAD DELIVERED  
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ARMS TO LUANDA EARLIER IN SAME VOYAGE, CHARGE WHICH WAS

PROMPTLY AND INDIGNANTLY DENIED BY POLISH EMBASSY. TIMES FOLLOWED UP NEXT DAY WITH SEPARATE INVESTIGATIVE PIECE ON SALE OF PORTUGUESE PRODUCTS IN NIGERIA NOTABLY MATEUS WINES WHICH PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED IN MOST SUPERMARKETS. AS TIMES REPORTER NOTED WITH FEIGNED ASTONISHMENT, IMPORT AND SALE OF PORTUGUESE GOODS PERFECTLY LEGAL UNDER CURRENT NIGERIAN LAW.

3. QUESTIONED ABOUT TWO TIMES STORIES AS AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE, COMMISSIONER EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ARIKPO DISMISSED OUT OF HAND ALLEGATIONS RE ARMS SHIPMENT BUT PROMISED FMG WOULD TAKE ACTION PREVENT FUTURE INFRINGEMENT OF WHAT HE CALLED "CLEAR CUT POLICY NOT TO DEAL WITH PORTUGAL IN ANY CONCEIVABLE WAY."

4. COMMENT: TIMES PIECE ON POLISH VESSEL FOCUSED ENTIRELY ON ALLEGED ARMS SHIPMENT AND NOT ON FACT THAT VESSELS REGULARLY CALL AT LAGOS AND AT SOUTHERN AFRICAN PORTS ON SAME VOYAGE. TOLERANCE OF THIS PRACTICE BY BOTH SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT IS ONE OF SURVIVING ANOMALIES IN FMG POLICY WHICH NOMINALLY REJECTS ANY FORM OF INTER-COURSE WITH MINORITY-RULED AREAS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, BUT AS NOTED REFTEL) THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE INDICATION FMG PLANS ANY ACTION TO INTERFERE WITH CURRENT PRACTICES IN THIS REGARD. SALE OF PORTUGUESE PRODUCTS IS MORE VISIBLE, AND THUS MORE EMBARRASSING, ANOMALY, BUT IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER ARIKPO'S PROMISE OF IMPENDING ACTION ON THIS FRONT WILL BE KEPT. OTHER PAPERS HAVE NOT JOINED TIMES IN PUBLICIZING THESE ANOMALIES, PERHAPS SUGGESTING FMG HAS PASSED WORD THAT IT PREFERS AVOID FURTHER PUBLIC EMBARRASSMENT WHILE DEBATING WHAT (IF ANY) STEPS TO TAKE.  
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